

# THE COMMUNICATOR

November 8, 2010

Dedicated to Informative Excellence

Issue 3 Fall 2010

## Freshman Convocation Highlighted Student Stepping Stones to College Success

BCC's newest class of enthusiastic freshmen students jammed the 650-seat Gould Memorial Library auditorium on September 30 and listened closely to two messages about the importance of college: making choices and finding one's passion.

"You will have to choose your goals. You will have to decide what will be the best path," stated President Carolyn G. Williams. "To reach your goals, you have to fully immerse yourselves in what the College has to offer and explore all the opportunities." Her sentiments were followed by George Sanchez, senior vice president for Academic Affairs, who emphasized to the freshmen that while family, children and jobs are always important, students must make college a passion and top priority in order to get the most out of the higher education experience.

Keynote speaker Elisha Miranda, a filmmaker, educator and community activist, picked up on the messages Williams and Sanchez delivered. "The best thing about being in school is that it is a place where you can learn to question and think differently," she said. "I feel that my education has opened doors. However, concrete experiences via internships, fellowships, leadership programs, travel and activism have really allowed me to keep those doors open."

Miranda stressed to the students that every experience in life is filled with lessons learned that can be applied to future missions, visions and vocations. She shared that becoming an activist really taught her that she did not have to settle. "If it did not exist, one had the responsibility to stand up and create it," she said.

Miranda grew up in public housing and was the first person in her family to graduate from high school and college. Always interested in video and film, she was dismayed growing up by the fact that just about everybody on TV and in the movies did not look like her. Her passion, she told students, would be to do something in her career that would help change that situation. In fact, in 2001, she co-founded Chica Luna Productions to identify,

develop and support other women of color seeking to make socially conscious entertainment. Along with her good friend Sofia Quintero (aka Black Artemis), she also founded Sister Outsider Entertainment, a multimedia production company with several projects in development for television, film and stage. She is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Columbia University, where she earned her master of fine arts in film directing and screenwriting. For over 15 years, she has been an activist and educator on issues affecting youth and the community.

Miranda admitted that although she loves media, one of the pitfalls of being able to access everything within a minute is that many want the instant fix. "It's about the journey, not the destination," she told the new students. "It's how we handle adversity, as it will always exist in some form. It's about perseverance with your choices and passion."



Freshmen Keynote speaker Elisha Miranda, a filmmaker, educator and community activist.  
Photo: Patricia Pascual



Freshmen at Fall Convocation in Gould Memorial Library Auditorium.

Photo: Patricia Pascual

## BCC Marches for Dignity, Anti-violence, and Tolerance

By William Murray



Following a recent rash of gay teen suicides and homophobic attacks in the city, a gruesome hate crime struck home for Morris Heights' residents, making a bad situation worse for the borough's community as a whole, especially the gay populace.

In early October, three young men were brought to a vacant apartment at 1910 Osborne Place, where they'd fallen victim to assailants who, motivated by prejudice, committed unspeakable violence against the individuals targeted because of their sexual orientation. The word spread fast throughout the Bronx Community College campus of the tragedies in the vicinity, and the feeling of most people, faculty and students alike, was that direct action should be taken. Lead forth by Sue Moss, a BCC professor of Dance and Physical Education, the plan was laid to have a silent protest-rally demonstrating the alliance against discrimination and cruelty.

Hundreds of collegial participants assembled on

Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, outside of Roscoe C. Brown Jr. Student Center, accompanied by Public Safety officers, police, local news reporters and partnered organizations such as Montefiore Hospital's own Adolescent AIDS Program for the "March for Dignity."

In peaceful dissent, they marched and distributed a statement to pedestrians and shopkeepers en route: "We will not tolerate belittling or abuse of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered people on our campus. Bronx Community College must be a safe space for all students, faculty, staff and community members to explore and grow."

At the tenement where the attack took place in October, the marchers solemnly placed 100 white and purple carnations in honor of the victims, and took the moment to reflect on their intentions. There they stood, together, on their dignity, and against all bigotry.

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## *The Communicator* Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

*The Communicator* urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper.

We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper.

The views expressed in by-lined articles and in published letters are solely those of the writer, and they do not necessarily represent the view of *The Communicator*.

We reserve the right to edit any article or letter submitted due to space considerations.

We reserve the right to refuse publication to any article or letter due to space considerations as well as those articles or letters deemed inappropriate because of profane language, non-verification problems, or slander.

No article or letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, email address, and telephone number.

Please submit all articles and letters to the following email address:  
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### *Notes:*

No Word submissions will be accepted that are saved in Word 2007. Please save and submit in an earlier version.

JPEGs must be submitted as email attachments and should not be embedded in the Word copy.

### *The Communicator* Submission Insertion Dates Fall 2010

If you are interested in having an article, editorial, letter or announcement included in *The Communicator*, it must be received by the following dates:

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**December**  
**Tuesday, November 23, 2010**

Please note that *The Communicator* reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission due to space considerations or if the submission is deemed inappropriate because of profane language, verification problems, and/or slander.

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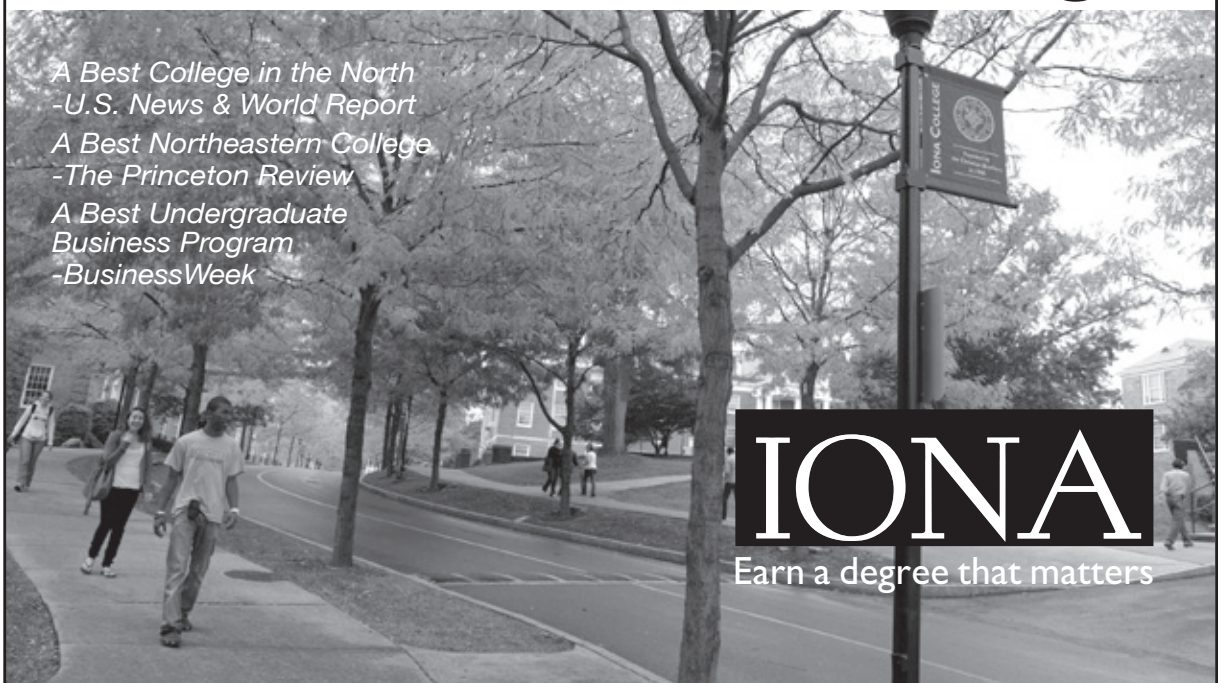
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# Campus News

## Going Green at BCC

By William Murray

The Bronx is crammed with vehicles, construction, etc., that cause emissions and many residents suffer with respiratory disorders. But planting trees and shrubs can help absorb the pollutants that are carried by the wind, therefore lessening the causes of bronchial asthma by acting as an allergen filter. In the present day, there is an increasing need for eco-consciousness, especially in the Bronx which has borne the burden of having the second-highest asthma rate in the country. Whether it's cleaning streets overcrowded with vehicles, shorelines overloaded with power plants (like the East River), recycling, solar panels, and/or adding gardens on municipal rooftops, these are all progressive steps in revamping and enhancing our community's general wellbeing.

At Bronx Community College, a former Student Government Association Treasurer, Jerdene Allen, founded the Go-Green Workshops on campus to teach the students about environmentalism. In tradition, last year's SGA treasurer Raya Bayor kept the workshops going. This year fellow Senator Julissa Lora and I have taken on the assignment, revamped to advocate the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and The BCC chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) at the workshops. Additionally, Julissa and I are co-chairs of the Bronx Community College Sustainability Committee. The committee is part of the campus' inclusive Green Task Force that meets with Dean David Taylor, dean of Administration and Finance and Sustainability Council Chair.

The first workshop of the fall semester was a success. Held in Language Hall's faculty lounge on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the mission was to further enlighten students on matters of activism and promotion of protecting our ecosystem. Students were promised a "comfortable luncheon to discuss 'green' lifestyle substitutes" with food served, giveaways, and OCD credit."

We welcomed representatives to come and speak at our workshops. Professor Charmaine Aleong of the Dietetics and Nutrition Science Program brought her class to the workshop and addressed the students about BCC's dietician program. Professor Claudio Mazzatenta of the Biology Department, who brought forth the campus garden project along with Aleong, discussed the need for active maintenance of the garden by the BCC community, which is open to all. Other reps included Leticia Negron of NYPIRG and Luis Torres who spoke meaningfully at the workshop about pertinent efforts on campus to develop our physical surroundings for an improved community and to campaign for those improvements.

All through the Bronx a redesigning of streets with pathways for runners, sprinters, and cyclers is directly promoting the sanitation of our district. The less automobiles we drive and the less automobile trips we make, the less polluted our atmosphere becomes. Bicycles, skates, electric scooters, strollers, etc. don't contaminate. In her article "Sustainable Solutions," environmental justice advocate Majora Carter wrote, "...despite the fact that our small part of NYC already handled 40 percent of the entire city's commercial waste, a sewage sludge pelletizing plant, the world's largest food distribution center, and other industries which brought more than 55,000 diesel trucks to the area each week. At the same time, the area had one of the lowest ratios of parks to people in the city." At the Go-Green Workshops we are about a counteraction to overdevelopment, discussing the expansion of practices and policies that both positively and negatively affect the environment, so to promote eco-friendly development which is most crucial to sustaining our beautiful inner-city.

## ISC Plans College-wide Celebration

By Vinita Role



The International Student Club (ISC) is pleased to announce its first ever International Students Cultural Celebration event under the theme "Uniting Together as One." The International Students Cultural Celebration event is organized in conjunction with the BCC International Education Week and is scheduled to be held on Monday November 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm, in Colston lower level.

The International Student Cultural Celebration has been designed to offer students from various countries the opportunity to display in performance and exhibition the culture and heritage of their home land. This cultural extravaganza will share with the college community firsthand experiences of International Students inimitable traditions. To celebrate our "Uniting Together as One" I am inviting all members to please come dressed in traditional wear or any clothing unique to his or her culture. To support BCC International Education Week, I am asking students to highlight some major facts about their country to be presented for informational purposes, be creative and use music, pictures, slides and multimedia tools to showcase why your country is the best.

If you are interested or know of any other clubs who would like to participate, please contact Ms. Rolle at (718) 289-3406 or email vernita.letang@stu.bcc.cuny.edu. Once again, join us in celebration of the unique qualities that we all possess, while strengthening the bond that we share as a BCC student body. We look forward to celebrating with you.

## Au Revoir Hispanic Heritage Month ... Until Next Year

By Carmela Perez

Hispanic Heritage Month ended with a "BANG" the day of Thursday, October 14 here at Bronx Community College. In celebration of this month students and faculty members united to commemorate Hispanic heritage, hosted by Elmer Ortega. The first annual Latina/o tradition performance, held at Roscoe Brown's Playhouse, was produced by Beatriz Ramirez, student, president and editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper, and mentored by Professor Jason Ramirez from the Department of Communication Arts and Science.

Many students and two faculty, including Gabriel Jackson, Beatriz Henrique, Carmela Perez, Elmer Ortega, Brian and Professor Jason Ramirez who performed *Puerto Rican Obituary* by Pedro Pietri and a monologue from *Passing Judgment*, participated in the event by reciting poems from known Hispanic authors. Amongst those that recited poetry was Dr. Eve Lambert, also from the CAS department, recited *The Changeling* by Judieth Ortiz Ortega and *Open Memo to the Congressional Appropriations Committee and the Military Department of Defense* by Sandra Maria Estevez. Students such as Ibrahim Siddiq and Massawa Lawson performed their own pieces titled *Good and Evil*, *I write for* and *Plantation Life*, respectively, while others recited poems from authors such as Tato Laviera, Victor Hernandez Cruz, Osvaldo Ferres, Julia de Burgos and Pedro Pietri, amongst others.

Although the evening was rainy and dark, many students and faculty members came to support the performers in celebration of the last day of Hispanic Heritage Month. There were also numerous outstanding musical performances from Beatriz Ramirez, Joel Cabrera, Adrien Read (guitarist) and Kevin Peralta (percussionist). The night was interesting and filled with pride which gave life to these exceptional performances.

The event ended with vigorous applause from the audience, producer Beatriz Ramirez added as the finale approached, "I know that this won't end here, today. This will repeat for many years to come, performances from students and faculty members which will inevitably bring our community together!" The first annual Latina/o Heritage performances certainly left an impression on all those who went, including the performers; hopefully, this celebration is continued in the years to come.

## Welcome to BCC's Paralegal Society Student Club



To all students, if you are ever in the neighborhood of BCC, please feel free to stop by Meister Hall, Room 303, every Thursday from 12 to 1pm to meet the Paralegal Society Student Club. As members of the Paralegal Society we are cordially inviting all students to come meet with us. You will find a tight-knit family that awards the students here the opportunity to interact with other students who are passionate about law. The Paralegal Society provides students with a forum in which we discuss current legal issues, such as immigration, criminal law, landlord-tenant, and so forth. Professor Marvin Yaker, our club advisor, allows guest speakers to come in and formally address the club with regards to any of our legal questions and concerns.

For those students interested in law school, we even have speakers come in to advise us on the law school admission process. In the spring, in order to commemorate Law Day, a nationwide event, the Paralegal Society holds a "Law Day" of its own, in which we address issues all students at the College would find informative and essential. Last, but not least, our club provides field trips to different courthouses as well as Albany or Washington, D.C., in an attempt to familiarize the students with New York State's, as well as our nation's, legal system.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Paralegal Society Department at (718) 289-5635.

## CORRECTION

In the October 8<sup>th</sup> article, "BCC at the Black Engineer Conference," Oreoluwa Adetola, who contributed to the story, was not credited.



# Going Global



## The Michael Steuerman Legacy Scholarship and the Gifts of International Volunteering

By Jeffrey P. Guard

In the Spring 2010 I was awarded Bronx Community College's prestigious Michael Steuerman Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship provides the opportunity for the recipient to experience community service in a foreign country with the intention of raising global literacy and awareness through volunteer work.

On July 13, 2010 I left my apartment in the Bronx for an 18-hour journey halfway around the world to the ancient island-country of Sri Lanka. I joined the international volunteer organization "Projects Abroad" and served as a medical volunteer for one month. I stayed with a host family in the small city of Panadura (south of the capital, Colombo) where I worked Monday through Friday at the Base Hospital of Panadura, "shadowing" physicians, learning about the human body and healthcare in Sri Lanka while assisting the doctors with whatever they needed.

During my work at the hospital, I was able to participate or observe in over 700 patient examinations and 30 different surgical procedures. I spent time in clinical rotations at the hospital in the General Clinic, the Male Ward, the Female Ward, the Surgical Ward, and the Pediatrics Ward. Aside from volunteering at Base Hospital, I also had the opportunity to spend a few days at Kethumathi Women's Hospital in the Labor Ward where I was able to see women give birth to their newborn babies.

My volunteer experience was originally organized by the group Projects Abroad ([www.projectsabroad.org](http://www.projectsabroad.org)), an international organization that matches you with other volunteers who share your particular volunteer interests. I met pre-medical, medical, and nursing students from all over Europe as well as a few students from other parts of the US.

A Priceless Memory of Volunteering Made Possible By Friendship

Volunteering in a foreign country taught me the value of friendship on an international scale. The chance to make friends from different parts of the world can lead to experiences that are unique and truly one of a kind.

Not being able to rely on my network of friends and family back home, I was forced to be more sociable than I ever thought possible. This turned out to be a true gift. It forced me out of my shell and to reach out to others. It also forced me to learn how to be open to others who wanted to share their lives with me.

I always thought of myself as independent and able to handle whatever came my way, without needing help from others. Well, volunteering in a foreign country reminded me that I don't know everything — and being mindful of that allowed a profound shift in my own thinking.

Little did I know, but I was about to learn the

importance of developing friends while volunteering. Developing friendships with other volunteers is not always easy. First, we are all there for only a short period of time and from different places in the world. Knowing this, many volunteers decide to be nice and sociable, but not really make any effort to develop a true friendship. It can also be difficult communicating to others who have different social norms, customs, or speak different languages. Things get lost in translation.

Developing friendships abroad requires a great deal of work but it's worth it, because it enhances the overall trip experience as well as having a "base" of support on which to rely upon.

I came in with the mindset of being ready to work and only work; I would be nice and respectful to others, but being there for only thirty days, I didn't plan on being making friends for life with anyone. The minute I landed in this beautiful, complicated country I immediately felt a little lost and lonely; maybe making a friend or two *or seven* wouldn't be so bad. I wanted someone to talk to about all the newness and unfamiliarity that was a bit destabilizing — but at the same time exhilarating.

On the first day, Projects Abroad housed me at a hotel in the capital Colombo and the first two people I met were the coordinators from Projects Abroad, Elise and Gishan. Elise was from Australia and Gishan from Sri Lanka. They were extremely helpful in answering all my questions about the volunteer work and keeping me company my first day before meeting my host family. I was so grateful for their cheery company—at that point I was feeling super-lonely and ready to be open and ready to meet any and all other volunteers and anyone else who wanted to be friends.

One of the most amazing experiences during my volunteer experience was getting to watch my FIRST birth of a baby at the Women's Hospital. Originally, I was only scheduled to work at the General Base Hospital, but hearing stories from other volunteers about getting to deliver babies and observe c-sections and the like, at the Women's Hospital, made me want to do it!

My opportunity came from befriending one of the volunteers who had been volunteering there for about a month when I arrived. Her name was Rheo and she was from Leicestershire, England. Rheo was fearless, funny, and charming and we instantly became friends. Her positive energy was infectious and brought the very best out of me. It was so easy to hang out with her and laugh and talk about anything. It immediately changed my volunteer experience from good to amazing. Her passion in life was to become a mid-wife in England, and she decided to volunteer in



Sri Lanka to experience a hospital setting before attending university.

She was well respected at the Women's Hospital by all the midwives and had some 'pull' with them, so when she invited me to accompany her on Thursdays and Fridays, I knew I was going to experience something very special. Rheo, in a little more than a month, had already become quite adept at the birthing process and new a lot!

The minute we came into the labor ward, she introduced me to all the midwives and doctors, she showed me how everything worked and explained to me the various stages of delivery and potential problems to expect.

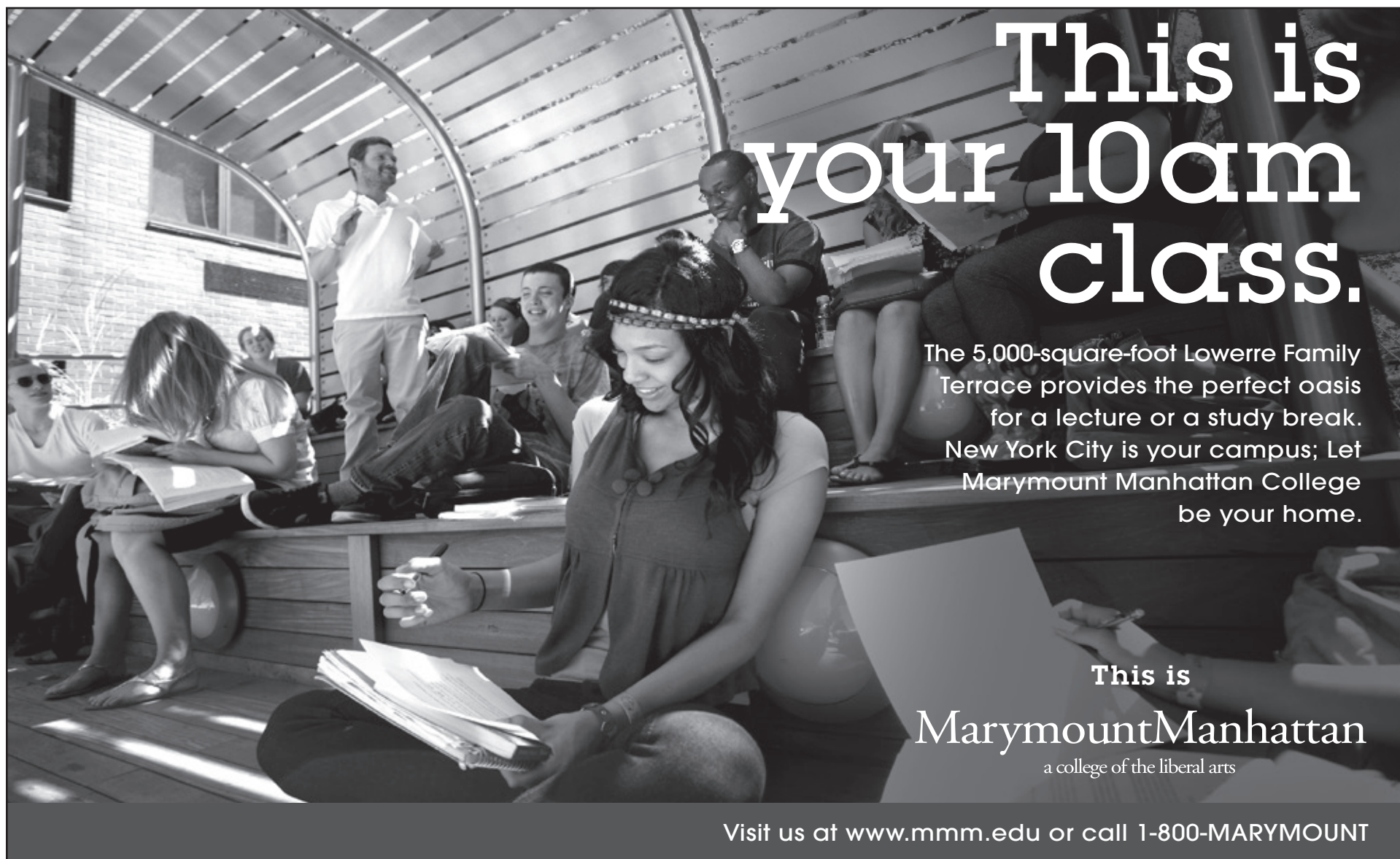
She was so good she could observe a patient in the painful throws of contractions and know if she was getting close to delivery. She had also become close with the other midwives and together they allowed me to see the most scared of all human acts, witnessing the birth of a human into this world.

When the baby was born the doctor handed it to a midwife, who handed it to Rheo, who then told me to follow her as she took the baby to the cleaning station. Together, we got to clean a freshly delivered baby, weigh it, clothe it and watch it open its eyes for the very first time. Watching a newborn open its eyes for the very first time is one of the most amazing things I have ever experienced.

That first day at the Women's Hospital, volunteering with Rheo is something I will never forget—and getting to share that with a newly made friend was truly priceless. After that we became even better friends. We had our own jokes, we kept each other company, and we offered one another support. If I had not met Rheo, I don't think my volunteering experience would have been as special.

Making friendships while volunteering is possible and I highly encourage it. These days, we're both back in our respective countries but we still keep in touch through e-mail and Skype. And we still laugh at the same jokes and same stories and I'm so grateful for that. I'm grateful to have made a friend in this world who was there and shared the experience of working in a Sri Lankan hospital and who understands how much it changed me as a person. That is something I never expected from volunteering, but I'm so thankful for it.

If you volunteer abroad, keep your heart open—you may just be lucky enough to make a friend or two *or seven* for life!



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# Faculty News

## WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

### Some Tips on Electronic Research

By Anton Masterovoy

*Writing Fellow, History and Communications Departments*

Around October, most students will be starting work on their research papers. The assignments often ask for three or four sources from academic databases or from peer-reviewed journals. Why is there a requirement to use these databases and journals, in the first place? These journals have articles written by scientists for scientists and are reviewed by their colleagues (their peers) for accuracy, making these publications some of the more reliable sources of information for research. They are also a good example of the work done in the individual disciplines and college professors want to introduce their students to what being a professional researcher is like. Wikipedia maybe a tempting go-to source but as most of your professors probably already told you, you can’t use it as a source because anyone can change a Wikipedia article at any moment – its contents are too unstable and unreliable as a source of information for your work.

Unless their high school teachers have been very diligent, it is unlikely that most freshmen have encountered electronic research databases until coming to college (I know I didn’t). I can recommend the most commonly used databases that can be helpful for almost any research project: Academic Search Complete, J-STOR, and ProjectMUSE. They are available in any CUNY library and in all the public libraries. They can even be accessed from a home computer by going to the “Databases A to Z” section of the BCC website (<http://bcc-libweb.bcc.cuny.edu/resources/databases.jsp>) and entering the library barcode from the back of the BCC ID card once you click on one of the database links there. All three databases allow you to search the full-text of the articles to find useful articles from the hundreds of academic, peer-reviewed journals.

The next issue you as the researcher will come to is what to look for and where. I would suggest thinking of the main keywords for the topic. For instance, if the assignment asks you to decide whether graffiti is a form of art or vandalism, then you should start looking for the terms “graffiti” and “art”, or “graffiti” and “vandalism.” When you first click on the database link it usually opens to a single search window. I would suggest that you should then click on one more link called “advanced search” which will bring you to multiple search windows so that you can search for more than one term. Look through the list of articles that come up – the titles already provide some clues as to what is inside. Click on those that look promising – many have an abstract on top of the first page that summarizes the contents. If an article looks interesting and useful, print it out – that way you can work with when you are not online, underline passages that will support your argument, and take notes right on the article. If you do underline passages that have information that you found useful, make sure you write a note in the margins next to it, reminding yourself *why* you found it interesting or how it will support your argument. It can help if you have a file or a piece of paper that has your main argument written at the top as you are reading your sources, so that you remember what you are trying to prove and are copying out only the quotes or paraphrased ideas that will support your argument.

Make sure you note the author’s name, the article title and the page number that each quote or idea you are writing down is coming from. Almost all the assignments will ask you to cite your sources. There are a number of citation styles. What they are and how they work is very well explained on Purdue University’s OWL website: MLA (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>), APA (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>), and Chicago Manual of Style (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>).

Finally, no matter what kind of research you are doing, don’t be afraid to ask your professor for further instructions. Always proofread your work before you submit it. Don’t be afraid to ask for help from your classmates, librarians, a tutor, or a writing fellow. It never hurts to get a bit more information or to look over your work one more time, especially if that means learning more skills and (let’s be honest) getting a better grade.

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Faculty News



TRANSFER PLANNING  
What to Do and When to Do It

The primary reason for early and continuing transfer planning is to ensure that degree program and curriculum are consistent with future career or educational plans. **Waiting until the last semester may limit options.** Articulation agreements are excellent tools for transfer planning because they provide a course of action for students, including an outline of the most appropriate courses to schedule. They provide a course of action for students, including an outline of the most appropriate courses to schedule. Furthermore, some articulation agreements encourage students to continue in the same course of study they started at BCC, while others gear students toward a particular career or educational pathway.

TRANSFER PLANNING TIMELINE

0-12 Credits

- Read the College Catalog
- Explore career and educational pathways
- Select your degree program
- Read articulation agreements

13-24 Credits

- Check for new articulation agreements
- Visit college web sites
- Read the CUNY transfer policy
- Write your resume

25-30 Credits

- Explore transfer options
- Attend senior college open house events
- Check for new articulation agreements
- Begin scholarship search

35-45 Credits

- Check for new articulation agreements
- See academic adviser for pregraduation audit
- CPE Exam
- Update your resume
- Apply for scholarships

Final Semester

- Apply for graduation
- Send applications
- Apply for financial aid and scholarships

Post Graduation

- Send final transcript to school you have been accepted to.

TRANSFER APPLICATION ESSENTIALS

BCC CEEB Code: 2051

Get other college and high school CEEB codes at [http:// www.suny.edu/Student/apply\\_tables\\_codes.cfm](http://www.suny.edu/Student/apply_tables_codes.cfm)

CUNY & SUNY Application Deadlines:

Spring Admissions: **September 15**

Fall Admissions: **February 1**

CUNY Transfer Application is available online at [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu)

CUNY Application Processing Center:  
**212.997.CUNY**

SUNY Transfer Application is available on line at [http:// www.suny.edu/student/apply\\_on-line.cfm](http://www.suny.edu/student/apply_on-line.cfm)

SUNY Recruitment Response Center:  
**1.800.342.3811**

RELATED SERVICES

CAREER AND TRANSFER ADVISEMENT

Loew Hall, Room 330  
718.289.5759/5912  
[careerandtransfer@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:careerandtransfer@bcc.cuny.edu)

THE BRONX CENTER FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Loew Hall, Room 428  
718.289.5903

THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

2nd Floor of Sage Hall  
718.289.5401

Read more about articulation agreements and other educational partnerships online at <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/TransferCounseling/index.html>

Gen Ed Proficiency or Learning Outcome	% of Employers that want colleges to place “more emphasis” on this learning outcome
Communication	89%
Reasoning and Analysis	81%
Personal Growth and Professional Development	79%
Mathematical Methods (mathematical reasoning)	75%
Scientific Method (science and technology)	70%
Informational literacy	68%
Global Awareness	67%

*Adapted from “Raising the Bar: Employers’ Views of College Learning in the Wake of the Economic Downturn”, a survey of employers conducted for AAC&U by Hart Research Associates and published in 2010.*

# Writers of the Month

## PERSPECTIVES ON JUNOT DIAZ



On September 20, 2010 the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Junot Diaz arrived at our campus to a packed auditorium at the Gould Memorial Rotunda. This much anticipated event, sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), the Office of Student Life, and the BCC Latino Association of Faculty and Staff, was a tremendous success. Diaz spoke about himself as a Dominican American immigrant living in New Jersey where there were no role models for what he wanted to be: a writer. He insisted on addressing students as an artist, not as a professor—which he is at MIT– and, therefore, he expressed himself lyrically in language that startled some students blending as it did slang and Spanish phrases. Several times he asserted that “art is transgressive”; it crosses boundaries and forces us to think. He lamented that in the United States today public education does not do enough to promote the arts and take art education seriously; consequently, we tend to undervalue the arts and the role of the artist in society.

After his introductory remarks, Diaz read from his short story “Alma” about a young Hispanic man who gets dumped and dressed down by his girlfriend once she discovers he has been cheating on her. It is an incisive, comic send-up of the macho protagonist’s ego and his skewed view of women which, judging by the resounding laughter, the audience thoroughly enjoyed. The reading was followed by an intensive question-and-answer session. Diaz addressed questions about his life and art as well as students’ concerns about their own struggles as developing artists balancing work, family, and academic obligations. Students turned to him for advice, and he got to the heart of their questions, answering so astutely but with a humility and a deeply ingrained graciousness that impressed itself on the audience who responded by applauding each of his perceptive remarks, even though he said politely that they did not have to. One student in turn explained that they needed to show their appreciation, and so they continued to applaud him!

At the end of Diaz’s talk, students gave him a well-deserved standing ovation. Then Harriet Shenkman, Director of CTE, called to the stage the winners of the Junot Diaz essay contest, each of whom received two of Diaz’s books, courtesy of the Office of Student Life and the BCC Association of Latino Faculty and Staff, which he signed for them. Diaz went on to sign audience members’ books as well, after which he was taken to a small luncheon with faculty and the student essay contest winners. In all, Diaz’s visit was a truly special and memorable event.

What follows is a sampling of the winning student essays. Because of space constraints only two of the essays could be published. We hope that you enjoy them!

---

### Mama’s Boy: Culture, Fear, and Pity

By Beatriz Ramirez

*Through this essay contest, I received autographed books – Drown and The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao from Pulitzer Prize-winner Junot Diaz, and I attended a reception in his honor at the College. Below is the essay I entered about his short story “The Pura Principle” and the struggle a character faces with manhood and womanhood in this story.*

“Boys will be boys” is the kind of attitude most cultures in the world practice. It seems most evident in the Hispanic culture, where the males in a house hold aren’t expected to do “woman’s work,” but be free in the world studying some sort of craft to earn a living, but definitely never to do woman’s chores. The story in “The Pura Principle” gives us a tale of a Dominican family who while battling the conflict of their family dynamic, also battle the struggle a sick member has with his manhood. Contrast to how his body deteriorates, Rafa is determined to continue behaving in what seems to be socially expected male behavior. As if it isn’t challenging enough to live up to masculine roles in society, Rafa’s illness prevented him from fulfilling them even further.

When Rafa “landed on planet Cancer” it took a toll on his ability to be everything society tells us a man is supposed to be; dominant, physically strong, independent, bread winners. All of his life, his mother had taken special care of him. He was a boy and he could do whatever he wanted, whenever wanted, however he pleased. “Male privilege” as the narrator, Rafa’s younger brother, Yunior, so bluntly admitted. Like most Dominican households, his mother did everything around the house while he and his younger brother did nothing, not to mention she also worked in a factory. It wasn’t until Rafa got sick that he decided to work but it had nothing to with helping her with finances. He wanted to work for his own ego as he became weaker and feared becoming less capable of doing things as a man.

As if Rafa didn’t receive enough special treatment from being born male, his mother also favored him over his brother because he was something of a “miracle baby.” Regardless of their own family history, most often, in families there are always favorites; the child who could do no wrong in their parents eyes, in this case “Mama’s boy.” Mama let both boys do as they pleased, and the few times when she objected, she didn’t put up much of a fight to stop her dearest son. As Rafa became sick, she attempted to keep him in the house more often, but this only went against his independence as a “freeman.” Naturally, he ignored her pleas and as if to remain manly, he stayed out late, drinking “till he puked”, picking fights all over town, and bringing women home to sleep with on a consistent basis, all in spite of his state of health.

Before the cancer took place in his life, Rafa struggled with his masculinity it seems. When he fought as a means of communicating that he was strong, dominant, and in control, his fear must have led him to be physically forceful. And if he ever feared a lack of control, it was then, when he couldn’t keep his ideal figure and strength as a man.

With or without sickness, men and women deal with the struggle of fulfilling the roles society imposes. In “The Pura Principle”, we see the struggle in a pure form. The story shows how the special treatments and the pressure we set on our sons and daughters to behave in particular ways hurt them and confuse them rather than guide them through life’s struggles.

---

### The Pura Principle

By Tara Burns

If you knew you were terminally ill, what would you do to prove that you were still a man or woman? The images of manhood and womanhood vary in “The Pura Principle,” a short story by Junot Diaz. Mami is a very hard working Hispanic mother who provides for her family. She loves God and adores her children, and when her oldest son Rafa is diagnosed with cancer, this is a very stressful time for her and her son. Rafa’s manhood is challenged by his illness.

Rafa feels as if he has something to prove. Before he had cancer, he was a smooth guy; he loved the ladies and had a lot of different women in his life. He was a bad boy who would not back down from a fight. He also had a beautiful girlfriend named Tammy whom he abused. When she left him to marry someone else, it hurt his pride. The cancer made him lose seventy pounds, another blow to his ego. He didn’t want people to feel he was less of a man because of his illness; he beat up a man in a supermarket just to prove that he could do it. Rafa didn’t want the cancer to get the best of him. Giving up partying and drinking was not easy for him; these were activities that made him happy—or at least helped to ease his pain.

Rafa got a job to prove that he was not as weak as his mother and peers had anticipated. His mom begged him not to work and this embarrassed him. He had never worked before, but for some reason he now felt as if he had to redeem himself. He got sick, however, and was unable to return to his job, but he met the love of his life there. His mom disapproved of his girlfriend, Pura. Mami felt that Pura was with her son solely to gain a green card. (And in the end she turned out to be right!) Rafa’s illness challenged his mother’s womanhood because he knew she didn’t like Pura but he didn’t care: he married her anyway, without his mother’s blessing, and then insisted that the three of them drink to their marriage! This angered Mami. Rafa knew she didn’t want any drinking in the house, but he didn’t respect her wishes so therefore Rafa and his new bride were kicked out the home. Mami was still concerned about Rafa’s well-being. Even though she felt disrespected, she still loved her son very much.

Rafa’s younger brother Yunior, on the other hand, respects his mom and stands up for her no matter what. He would not let his brother disrespect his mom, and he does what his mom asks him to do. He checks in on his brother for her sake, but he’s always a little afraid of the volatile Rafa.

Mami was a real woman. Even though Rafa stole her television and bed from her, she tries to make the best of it. She has to watch a little black and white ten inch television, but she just takes it as a loss, and tells her friend that she should have seen what she slept on when she was younger. She loves God, her family, friends and herself. She’s not selfish even when Rafa steals from her and tries to prove he’s a man at his mom’s expense. He wants to show his wife that he’s still strong even after losing a tremendous amount of weight. He went about it the wrong way, though, by stealing from his mom to support his new family. Yunior got hurt over a fight he and Rafa had over their mom’s money, but Mami didn’t care about the money: she would rather that Rafa take it from her than that he go out in the streets and do something crazy and get hurt. She was incredibly unselfish.

In conclusion, Rafa’s pride got in the way of his own manhood. He yearned to be strong. He knew he had a family to take care of and wanted to be their provider; however, he was not able to admit when he was wrong. Unlike Mami, he thought only about himself and had no loyalty to his mother. He took his mother’s love for granted and those are not the qualities of a real man. But Rafa was hurting inside, and hurt people often hurt other people.

Works Cited:

Diaz, Junot. “The Pura Principle.” The New Yorker 22 March 2010: 1-12.



# Outside the Quad

## Weekend Volunteer Efforts

By Alex Luma

For all of you who don't know about the Student Leadership Academy of Entrepreneurship, otherwise known as SLASE, it is an organization on campus built on leadership, success, and ethics. We strive to influence many minds and help people better themselves and reach their full potential. Even though we're located in Loew Hall, the effect that they have on the community doesn't stop on the BCC grounds. As of December 2009, volunteer service began for a Christmas service at St. John Divine Cathedral Soup Kitchen, on 110<sup>th</sup> and Amsterdam Avenue. Spearheading the efforts were Anthony L. Browne, Alex Luma, Frank Beckwith, and Nirvana Burns. The soup kitchen operates weekly on Sundays from 9:00 am to 1:30 p.m. Anthony L. Browne, SLASE Member and BCC graduate, says, "My experience being a part of the shelter system/treatment brought me to truly understand the value of giving back. I love helping and making people laugh. I took pride in the interactions that I made. I was once a regular with the volunteer functions because I used to live in the shelter that was a part of the church. Becoming a part of SLASE, I encouraged members to volunteer and serve their community." The SLASE Program, directed by Clifford Marshall II, is building its name in the bowels of many communities.

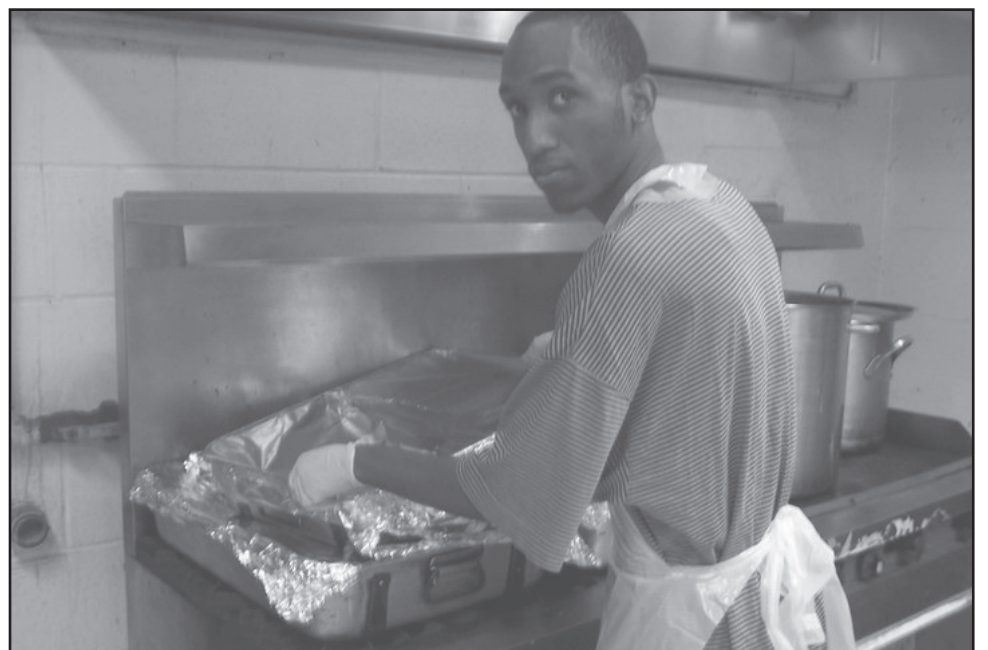
Frank Beckwith, SLASE Member, says, "Starting December of 2009 and through 2010, my experience at the St. John Divine Cathedral Soup Kitchen has been an experience that can't be described in words sufficient enough. What I can say is that I have felt a feeling of wholeness or the pouring out of love from the heart, especially to see the people there and to realize that it is not about you. It's about the time you give to serving the common good of mankind and expressing the best of our human nature for the benefit of people who aren't as fortunate as we are." Even with numerous daily things to do, we continue to help whenever help is needed. Nirvana Burns says, "My experience in volunteering with St. John Divine has been that of a mutual human experience. I felt like I was making a valuable contribution to society."

I, Alex Luma, SLASE Member and Career Development Associate for C.O.P.E., have repeatedly visited the church on my own every Sunday since the holiday drive. "It's a great experience to help out the community and to give to those who aren't able to give to themselves." It doesn't just help people out; it also brings a feeling of accomplishment and success. You don't have to be helping out large corporations to make a difference. Helping a small entity or a neighbor has just as big an effect. Even the smallest change can make a big difference.

Volunteering creates big leadership skills. It's pretty simple to make a buck every week or every now and then. The challenging part is making a single difference in the lives of society. As the old proverb says, "A volunteer is worth twenty pressed men." Up to this day, volunteer efforts continue to occur for the soup kitchen and many other charities. We will be volunteering at the ING New York City Marathon, sponsored by the New York Road Runners in early November. If you would like to find out more about our volunteer endeavors, you can stop by and see us at our office in Loew Hall. Room 114 is where we are stationed. You can learn more about our program and what we are about. If you don't know about SLASE, you better ask somebody!



Alex Luma and Nirvana Burns at Student Life Club Fair.



Alex Luma cooking at the Cathedral of St. Divine Cathedral Soup Kitchen.

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# Outside the Quad

## Learn How to Create Your Own Winning and Professional Online Brand in 3 Simple Steps: Part 1

### By Muhammad Jalloh

Whether you are a student, professor or a staff member of an academic institution (like BCC), you can effectively create and maintain your own online personal brand in 3 simple steps. In this piece, I will share with you how to go about this quickly and efficiently. Now if you thought that an online personal brand just involves having an account on Facebook, I would just like to say that that is just one (perhaps very small) aspect of it.

But first, “why do I need to create a personal brand online?” you may want to ask. Here are a few reasons:

- Your potential employers (if you are looking for a job or hope to change or “upgrade” your current one) will most likely run a query (search for you) online. The problem is that if most of what they find about you involves your unscrupulous (“night out” parties, beach adventures and childish rants on Facebook, MySpace, etc), then you probably won’t go far as far as a job is concerned. Your whole world now exists online.
- Your potential partners will “google” you to make sure you are not a potential liability for them when your tracks are eventually uncovered. (This applies to both your professional and social life.)
- You may have namesakes that are criminals, felons, etc and who may have made it onto news items that are currently (and will continue to be) online. You may be mistaken to be the same Jose Garcia (not real name) who stole a car and was profiled in your local newspaper, or Rick Smith (fictional character) who defrauded a bank and got a “fair mention” in the *New York Post*.
- You may be thinking of creating your own online portfolio of activities, experiences, volunteer work, professional work (articles, papers, speeches) and presentations, etc.
- And many more...

In any of these cases, the only way to redeem yourself (when you have a misfit namesake) or create a lasting impression is to create your own personal brand online. You can do this in three simple steps:

- \$ Establish an online web presence,
- \$ Create and/or publish your content, and
- \$ Develop a loyal and large following, both online and offline.

In this article, however, we will focus on the first of the three steps-establishing an online presence-and cover the others in the next issues of the newspaper.

### Three Simple Ways to Establish a Web Presence

The Internet thrives on content-text, images, videos, etc. But these don’t also exist out of nowhere. They are uploaded to the web by people, like you and me. There are a few ways to create a web presence, some with their own “pros and cons.” Here are some of the most widely used forms of web presence:

1. **Social Network Profile:** If you have a Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn or Twitter account, then you have a social network (the technical term given to online socializing websites) profile. In the case of Facebook, you can further customize your profile page’s link and make yourself easier to find by going to [www.facebook.com/username](http://www.facebook.com/username) and customizing your Facebook page to something simpler like [www.facebook.com/emilygarcia](http://www.facebook.com/emilygarcia) instead of the string of incomprehensible code that appears when you load your Facebook page.

Now, while having social network profiles is part of the online dimensions of our 21st century personalities, these are not enough to create a sustainable and professional personal brand for yourself.

2. **A Free Blog or Website:** You can do this in one of two ways, the free or the professional way. Websites like [blogger.com](http://blogger.com), [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com) and others offer you the opportunity to “tag along” on their website. For example, if your name is Emily Garcia, you may create an *emilygarcia.blogspot.com* or *emilygarcia.wordpress.com* blog. You may not have access to all the tools you need to create a professional website, but it is a good place to start.
3. **A Professional Website:** The professional way of creating your website or blog is to having your own “full domain” website. So, you may have [www.Jalloh.com](http://www.Jalloh.com) or [www.EmilyGarcia.com](http://www.EmilyGarcia.com), for example. These portray a professional image and you have a host of tools and resources available to you to create your own personal brand.

In this case, you will have to register a domain/website name (for a little less than \$10/year) and pay to host your domain (for as little as \$5 a month). With a professionally-hosted website, you will also be able to create and use personalized email addresses. So, instead of having [emilygarcia@gmail.com](mailto:emilygarcia@gmail.com) or [talktoemily@yahoo.com](mailto:talktoemily@yahoo.com) (both fictional email addresses), you can simply create and use such emails addresses as [email@emilygarcia.com](mailto:email@emilygarcia.com) or [contact@emilygarcia.com](mailto:contact@emilygarcia.com).

(A snapshot of a sample professional website is above: [www.Jalloh.com](http://www.Jalloh.com).)

While this obviously costs some money (typically less than \$70 per year for both the domain and website hosting), it helps you create a better and more professional image for yourself. Imagine having a line on your business card that says something along the lines of:

Emily Garcia  
Phone: 718-555-5555  
Email: [contact@EmilyGarcia.com](mailto:contact@EmilyGarcia.com)  
Website: [www.EmilyGarcia.com](http://www.EmilyGarcia.com)

That hands down beats a business card with an @gmail.com or @yahoo.com free email address any day and anywhere. It also portrays you as somebody who is very serious about their image, both online and offline.

### What You Should Do Next

While you await the next article on how to easily and simply source, develop and publish all types of content (text, videos, presentations) for your own professional online brand, here are a few things you should do:

- Setup accounts with the major social networks:
  - α Facebook.com
  - α Twitter.com (Great for “micro blogging”. Think, “group texting gone online.”)
  - α LinkedIn.com (This one is especially good for professional networking. It is to your professional life what Facebook tries to be for your social life. It is a great site to network with potential employers and mentors, get recommendations, form partnerships, stay abreast of industry trends, polish your resume and land new job offers.)
- Setup Your Own Personal Website:
  - α Go to either of [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) or [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) (better option) to register your blog and learn how to set it up by playing around with the interface.
  - α You may find tutorials on [www.Wordpress.tv](http://www.Wordpress.tv) (if you choose to set up your blog on [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com)) or at [www.youtube.com/bloggerhelp](http://www.youtube.com/bloggerhelp) (if you chose to use Blogger.)
  - α Place a link on your blog to your social network (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc) profiles.
  - α Go to <http://www.jalloh.com/tech> for a list of some free and recommended blogging tutorials, online branding tools and other resources.

That will be it for part 1 of the “Online Professional Branding Series.” If you have questions, comments or suggestions (on what you may want to see covered in the next issue, etc), please, do let me know on [www.jalloh.com/tech](http://www.jalloh.com/tech). I am counting on your feedback. For all personal questions, please, send them to [tech@jalloh.com](mailto:tech@jalloh.com). Thank you for reading. Now, go and start building your online brand!





Poetry Corner

Unused Words  
By Chaunice A. Benton

I should have known there was something wrong  
when I couldn't write about him ...

Nothing happy, nor sad; No "I miss you" influenced  
words could formulate for him/ from me.

Even when I tried, all that I produced was a  
structured line-up of what I should have said and  
outline of things I  
should have felt.

I couldn't express what I felt for him in the most  
powerful way I know how ...

*So what made me think that I could love him?*

We Shall Not Be Moved  
(Inspired by the recent antigay attacks  
in the Bronx and Manhattan)  
By William Murray

I stand on my dignity  
I will not stand for bigotry  
I will not let my borough  
Nor Christopher Street  
Become the next Laramie  
Mother Teresa said:  
"God is the friend  
Of silence"  
So I'll peacefully resist  
All unjustified violence  
Like Martin Luther King  
And Mahatma Gandhi  
I stand on my dignity  
Collected and calmly  
Strong, silent until  
We can sing a different tune  
The refrain remains  
We Shall Not Be Moved

Mother, may I please be gay?  
By Julien Provost

Born from a mother in a world full of hate  
It is imperative that one be straight.

With our earth filled with and androcentrism and  
body dysmorphia  
It's no wonder there is room for homophobia.

We promote love and affinity and ask for serenity  
All we get is hate and bigotry.

Intolerance, injustice, hate and subjugate  
Are simple words to describe the things we tolerate.

You'd think she'd allow him to love  
And force the tranquil sea to hove.

Instead she forbids him  
And hates not him but what he is.

He can't be who he is, but he can't be what he's not.  
Anywhere but home?

I am who I am, I'm not ashamed  
You act as though I destroyed your life and should  
be blamed.

I love you no less than I did before,  
You keep me locked behind the door.  
I can't breathe any more.

I'm your one and only son,  
I was born this way  
Mother may I... please be gay?

Lamentations of an Intellect Soul  
By Adedamola Agboola

I was born of a woman of integrity,  
A woman that I'm proud and will always,  
Beautiful and robust in her bosom,  
She fed so many and nurtured us,  
We all sucked the milk from her breast of wisdom,  
Rested in her warm hands of disciplines.

Some of us grew up to be heroes,  
That agonizes to remodel and beautify her,  
Unfortunately, some of us grew up to bastards,  
Trying to steal from her possessions  
After all the sleepless nights,  
The early morning chores,  
The midday hard work,  
Some look at her as unfair and unjust.

Shall I call these the strife for power through  
inferiority?  
No! It's the life that a greedy lazy bastard wants to  
live,  
Without working for it,  
Some of us work very hard to care for her,  
We toil in the hot sun,  
We have killed the 'self' and compromised,  
While you stay home all day waiting for us to bring  
back the harvest.

Yet you complain,  
That she is sick and fading away,  
You have taken her possession,  
But still can't take care of mother,  
As mother calls them, 'ingrate  
I call them selfish bloated-bellied ignorants',  
Some of us still pray for her  
While some still pretend to be generous.

When we try to make a change,  
They massacre us,  
Because they are older but stupid in their own  
intelligence,  
We all had to leave home,  
To find peace,  
To tarry another man's land,  
When our riches and resources are flowin' away,  
Into the stomach of the pot-bellied.

I miss my momma,  
I miss the smell of the roasted air,  
The buzz of the flies in my ear,  
The sound of babies crying,  
The sight of the older sitting and waiting for the  
better days,  
The feel of the earth on my bare feet,  
I miss home.

But we can't return home,  
Because we come up empty,  
When we dip our cups into a pot filled with  
something,  
The end justifies the means they say  
But the only end we'll see is her death,  
If we don't stand up.

Can't we all stand for a change,  
Can't we all fight for the survival of this woman,  
People even the sons and daughters of my mother  
Mock and describe how she has gone,  
From beautiful and gracious,  
To worthless and corrupt.

Well, I stand tall with boldness,  
To tell them that I am proud,  
To be born of this woman,  
I tell them,  
With all her sorrows and pains,  
I am Proud, I am White, I am Green, I am  
NIGERIAN!!!

10/01/2010  
www.jay-chronicles.blogspot.com

Thoughts  
By Erwin Fernandez

Love is a feeling  
Love is an expression of sentiment  
Love is not something u make up  
And never should be mistaken for lust  
To love one... u must admit it  
To admit it u must understand it  
To understand it u must open ur heart to it  
Never fear the feeling

can i visit ur dreams  
if i do  
i promise to make them come true  
i promise to never let anyone know  
i promise to never let go  
i promise to take all that u are  
i promise to go with this far  
i promise to let u b as u think  
i promise into utopia we will sink  
i promise to take this by steps  
i promise to never make u regret  
i promise, to u, only kiss  
and i promise to keep each promise

Reasons  
By Erwin Fernandez

I'm good with words, but better with writings  
If your wondering how can one love so much  
Stop  
The reason doesn't matter, the fact is what matters  
You are in every way a beauty  
Such sweet skin tone  
It's why they can't leave you alone  
Your physical, is itself a definition  
That causes a state of rendition  
One must value that profile  
Enhanced only by your beautiful smile  
I say all this  
So that you feel at least one moment of bliss  
Because I know what you search for  
Sometimes my leave that sweet heart sore  
Things are sometimes not fair  
Don't worry, Because I do care  
You ask yourself, why?  
It is because to you, I never have to lie  
Thank you for your ears  
Which have always listened to my fears  
Regardless of the season  
Hey, now you know my reason  
Now there is only one thing left to say

I'm in Love  
By Mohammed Hussain (Farhad)

I'm in love  
Not because who you are  
But how you make me feel.  
I'm in love, because your  
Hair is so beautiful like a  
Whisper upon the leaves of tree.

I'm in love, because your  
Smile is sea waves.  
Sometimes it makes me nervous,  
Sometimes you bold you make me happy.  
Love is part of our lives.  
I'm in love,  
I'm madly in love with you.



Campus News



C.O.P.E. Program  
Employment & HRA Benefits

The C.O.P.E. Program helps students meet CUNY college standards and HRA work obligations, in order to enhance their chances of graduating and achieving long-term economic self-sufficiency through gainful employment.

BARBARA MARTIN  
PROJECT DIRECTOR  
[BARBARA.MARTIN@BCC.CUNY.EDU](mailto:BARBARA.MARTIN@BCC.CUNY.EDU)  
Room 121

SILVIA CORPES  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
[SILVIA.CORPES@BCC.CUNY.EDU](mailto:SILVIA.CORPES@BCC.CUNY.EDU)  
Room 119

CASE MANAGERS:  
KATRINA GREENHILL  
SENIOR CASE MANAGER  
[KATRINA.GREENHILL@BCC.CUNY.EDU](mailto:KATRINA.GREENHILL@BCC.CUNY.EDU)  
ROOM 111

GLORIA QUINONES  
CASE MANAGER  
[GLORIA.QUINONES@BCC.CUNY.EDU](mailto:GLORIA.QUINONES@BCC.CUNY.EDU)  
ROOM 109

DENISE COMARA  
TITLE-CASE MANAGER  
[DENISE.COMARA@BCC.CUNY.EDU](mailto:DENISE.COMARA@BCC.CUNY.EDU)  
ROOM 113

The College Opportunity to Prepare for Employment Program is open from 9 – 7 pm (Mondays -Thursdays) and 9 – 5 pm (Fridays). C.O.P.E. is an organization on campus that provides supportive services to students receiving public assistance. Services include unlimited FREE METRO-CARDS for students or graduates who are:

1. Working
2. Receiving Food Stamps, Medicaid, and/or Cash Assistance (TANF)
3. Receiving Food Stamp, Medicaid, SSI, Unemployment with a child (200%)

If you are qualified, come down to the C.O.P.E. office at Loew Hall Room 106-A, and pick up an employment verification form.

If #'s (2) and/or (3) apply to you, but you are not working, you may also come down to our office for job assistance.

When employment consultants are not available, we always keep jobs posted in our employment

opportunities box, located in the department.

Also, Jobs & Internships are posted on the walls outside the career development offices.

(Loew Hall Rooms 115 and 117)

Career Development Staff:

JONATHAN ALEJO  
JOB DEVELOPER

[JONATHAN.ALEJO@STU.BCC.CUNY.EDU](mailto:JONATHAN.ALEJO@STU.BCC.CUNY.EDU)  
Room 115

ALEX LUMA  
CAREER DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATE  
[COPECAREERDEVELOPMENT@GM.AIL.COM](mailto:COPECAREERDEVELOPMENT@GM.AIL.COM)  
Room 117

In addition to providing free metro-cards & job search, C.O.P.E. also offers

1. Registration Advisement

In addition to providing free metro-cards & job search, C.O.P.E. also offers

1. Registration Advisement
2. Workshops and Seminars
3. Child-Care Referrals
4. Tutoring Referrals
5. Academic and Personal Counseling
6. Dress For Success Referrals
7. Resume Writing and Interview Preparation
8. Post-Employment Follow-Up for at least 90 Days

The C.O.P.E. Program has a full computer lab open from 9:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Mondays – Thursdays and 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. In addition to all of these benefits, The Work Experience Program (WEP) permits full-time TANF students to meet their workfare obligation in specially designed WEP assignments that do not interfere with college attendance. On campus, WEP is available to students enrolled at Bronx Community College. All CUNY WEP assignments are arranged and monitored by in Loew Hall, Room 129.



# Campus News

## Bronx Community College C.O.P.E. Program

2155 University Avenue  
BRONX, NY 10453

### C.O.P.E. PROGRAM

Loew Hall Room 106-A  
718-289-5603  
718-289-5849  
FAX: 718-289-6487  
EMAIL:  
Barbara Martin  
[Barbara.Martin@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Barbara.Martin@bcc.cuny.edu)  
Career Development Staff:  
Jonathan Alejo  
Alex Luma

Monday-Thursday  
9:00 A.M. – 7:00 p.m.  
Friday  
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

### Free Metrocards

If you were receiving public assistance and your case was closed due to employment, you may qualify for FREE METROCARDS.

For job search visit our website:  
[www.networknewyork.net](http://www.networknewyork.net)

### SINGLE STOP

The One Stop Source For Help

Loew Hall Room 123  
718-289-5179 or  
718-289-5100 EXT. 3433  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
Friday (Appointment Only)  
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

If you are on public assistance or looking for a job, either full or part-time – or know someone who is- come and see us!  
The College Opportunity to Prepare For Employment (C.O.P.E.) Program provides free services:

- Assistance with Registration and scheduling
- Full or part-time jobs
- Resume writing and interview preparation
- Metro Cards
- Designer Interviewer clothing (for you to keep)

### Student's Qualifications

Students receiving Full P.A.  
(With or without a dependent)  
Cash  
Food Stamps  
Medicaid

Student's Guardian is receiving Full P.A.: (Student must be on their case)  
Cash  
Food Stamp  
Medicaid

Students with children 18yrs and under receiving one or more of the following assistances:  
Food Stamp Medicaid Unemployment  
Child Support Alimony Rent Assistance  
SSI

## Single Stop

Are you or your family in need of assistance? The Single Stop Program at Bronx Community College can help with connecting you to the benefits and resources you may need, including:

- Food Stamps, Medicaid, or Public Health Insurance
- Childcare Assistance
- Low Income Housing
- Emergency Cash
- Public Assistance
- WIC
- Energy Assistance
- Legal Advice
- Domestic Violence counseling and assistance
- Financial Planning & Tax Preparation

Stop by our office for a free benefits screening and one-on-one counseling services. An appointment is not necessary, except on Fridays.

### Single Stop

Dedra Polite | [dedra.polite@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:dedra.polite@bcc.cuny.edu)  
Rosa Peguero | [rosa.peguero@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:rosa.peguero@bcc.cuny.edu)

Single Stop Coordinator  
Single Stop Administrator

## Vote for Trees

A donation to Sustainable Harvest International has been made in honor of  
Bronx Community College

by Votenet Solutions, Inc.



As a special thank you for your eBallot purchase, thirty tree seedlings have been provided to impoverished farming families in Central America. Sustainable Harvest International's local staff will provide the families with training and support to make these trees an integrated part of their farms. As the trees grow, they will prevent erosion, provide food and income for the families and help to restore the rain forest. Thank you for helping to create a lasting legacy of poverty alleviation and environmental protection.

April 2010

## eBallot





# Campus News

## MORE "RISING STARS" FROM BCC's CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



**This year an amazing 858 transfer students finished college at Monroe. Maybe it's time you made the move.**



Maybe it's all the exciting in-demand degrees. Or the professors who actually work in their fields. Perhaps it's the fully-furnished dorms equipped with WiFi, a computer lounge and fitness center. Or the classes that meet around your schedule. Whatever the reason, hundreds of motivated, career-minded students are taking their credits and turning them into marketable Associate or Bachelor's Degrees at Monroe College. Transferring to Monroe means:

- Generous transfer credit policy
- Additional credit for military or academy training
- Exciting degrees, in demand right now
- Professors who also work in their fields
- Unique Bronx & New Rochelle campuses
- Fully furnished apartment-like dorms
- Online & on campus class options
- Day, evening & weekend classes
- One-on-one financial aid & assistance



**Associate, Bachelor's and Masters Degree Programs:**  
Accounting  
Baking & Pastry  
Business Management\*  
Criminal Justice\*  
Culinary Arts  
Health Services Administration\*  
Hospitality Management\*  
Information Technology  
Medical Administration\*  
Medical Assisting  
Pharmacy Technician  
Public Health

Registered Nurse  
MBA in Business Management  
MS In Criminal Justice  
\* Programs also available Online.

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Wednesday, November 17th, 9am - 7pm  
Call 1.800.55.MONROE to make a reservation  
Bronx, New Rochelle and Online campuses

**MONROE COLLEGE**  
1.800.55.MONROE  
monroecollege.edu





where are the thinkers

who will foresee

the forces of nature?



## OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, November 13**  
Text VAUGHN13 to 75667

**Saturday, November 20**  
Text VAUGHN20 to 75667

# VaughnCollege

of aeronautics and technology

## Join us at the Vaughn College Ultimate Campus Visit

- Discover why 93 percent of our graduates land jobs within six months
- See how easy it is to transfer – and maximize your credits
- Choose an Open House Experience, from taking flight in our state-of-the-art simulators to exploring one of our many engineering and technology opportunities

**Reserve your spot now!**

Thinking  
**Above & Beyond**

**[www.vaughn.edu](http://www.vaughn.edu)**

ENGINEERING ■ TECHNOLOGY ■ MANAGEMENT ■ AVIATION





# Global Perspectives

Co-Curricular Activities  
2010-2011

International initiatives represent an important component of the educational experience at Bronx Community College. Our vision is to graduate students who are prepared to live within, profit from, and contribute to a 21st century global environment marked by diversity, change, and expanded opportunities for learning and growth. Our co-curricular activities offer students and faculty unique opportunities to expand upon classroom instruction. By reinforcing global learning through interdisciplinary and creative activities,

we help to prepare our students for an internationally complex environment.

This year, many academic departments and BCC centers have agreed to work together by identifying themes related to course material that they would like to highlight through co-curricular activities. These themes that are listed to the right offer the framework for the 2010-2011 academic year global activities, which should serve as an important resource for both students and faculty. We hope that you will support and enjoy these events throughout the year.

## Themes

- GA** Global Awareness, Tolerance and Understanding
- GE** Globalization and the Economy
- GW** Global Women
- GH** Global Health
- IC** International Culture
- IS** International Students
- LE** Literacy and Education
- SE** Sustainability and the Environment

## FALL 2010

### NOVEMBER

#### Monday–Monday, 11/1-22 FOOD DRIVE • **GH**

Keeping in mind that not all people are blessed with food every day, the Department of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, in collaboration with students and other BCC departments, will run a food drive throughout the month of November to address this issue. Collection bins will be placed at selected sites. Food will be distributed to local needy communities and to places as far away as Haiti (if possible). This will be one way that BCC participates in alleviating food scarcity.

*Coordinated by Dr. Marcia Jones, Professor Catherine Mbeve, and Professor Claudette Gordon, Department of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences*

#### Thursday, 11/4 GLOBAL FILM SERIES: CHISHOLM '72: UNBOUGHT & UNBOSSSED • **GW** (OCD) A FILM BY SHOLA LYNCH (76 MINUTES)

Schwendler Auditorium, Meister Hall/12-2 p.m.

*Unbought & Unbossed* is the first historical documentary about Brooklyn Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and her campaign to become the Democratic Party's presidential nominee in 1972. Following Chisholm from the announcement of her candidacy in January to the Democratic National Convention in Miami, Florida, in July, the story reflects her wit, spirit, and charisma. The film reminds all Americans of their power as citizens, while inspiring some to join the Chisholm Trail and continue fighting "the good fight."

*Moderated by Dr. Kate Culkin, Department of History, and Dr. Julie Bolt, Department of English. The series is coordinated by Dr. Kate Culkin, Department of History.*

#### Monday, 11/8 CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE LUNCHEON WITH FARNOOSH MOSHIRI • **GW** - FACULTY EVENT Center for Teaching Excellence, Philosophy Hall, B2/1-2 p.m.

This invitation-only CTE luncheon with faculty will be held prior to the reading by Iranian-born writer Farnoosh Moshiri. All faculty are invited, but reservations are required. RSVP to Dr. Harriet Shenkman at harriet.shenkman@bcc.cuny.edu.

*Coordinated by Dr. Harriet Shenkman, Center for Teaching Excellence, and Dr. Sandra Turlin, Department of English*

#### Monday, 11/8 CTE AUTHOR SERIES: FARNOOSH MOSHIRI • **GW** (OCD)

Roscoe C. Brown Jr. Student Center, Hall of Fame Playhouse/2-3:30 p.m.

Farnoosh Moshiri, the Iranian-born dramatist, poet and fiction writer, will offer a reading, discussion and book signing. She is the author of *At the Wall of the Almighty* (1999), *The Bathhouse* (2001), *The Crazy Dervish and the Pomegranate Tree* (2003), *Against Gravity* (2006), and *The Drum-Tower* (forthcoming 2011). This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life and the Center for Tolerance and Understanding.

*Coordinated by Dr. Harriet Shenkman, Center for Teaching Excellence, and Dr. Sandra Turlin, Department of English*

#### Tuesday, 11/9 WHERE I COME FROM • **GA** (OCD) Colston Hall, Lower Level/12-2 p.m.

BCC students will learn about the international backgrounds of BCC faculty and staff in an informal setting.

*Coordinated by Sahana Gupta, Office of the President; Barbara Schaier-Peleg, National Center for Educational Alliances; and Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English*

#### Wednesday, 11/10

##### SGA "GO GREEN" WORKSHOPS • **SE** (OCD)

Faculty/Staff Lounge, Language Hall/12-2 p.m.

BCC's Student Government Association will educate the student body about how to practice sustainability on campus and in everyday life. This event is sponsored by the Office of Student Life.

*Coordinated by William Murray and Julissa Lora, Student Government Association*

#### Wednesday, 11/10

##### UNITED NATIONS PATHWAYS AMBASSADOR FORUM • **GA** - BY INVITATION ONLY

BCC students will attend a special forum discussion on the Teaneck Metro campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University on the topic of "Rwanda—from Tragedy to Success," moderated by Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana from the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations.

*Coordinated by Barbara Schaier-Peleg, National Center for Educational Alliances, and Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English*

#### Tuesday, 11/16

##### International Education Week

##### OUR FOOD, THEIR FOOD, FAST FOOD, SLOW FOOD: STUDENTS BLEND GLOBAL AWARENESS WITH PERSONAL INSIGHT • **IC** - FACULTY EVENT

Center for Teaching Excellence, Philosophy Hall, B2/12-2 p.m.

This presentation will show GEO 10 and ITL 12 students' engagement with the theme of international perspectives on food. The event will showcase students' reflections on their eating habits and the eating habits of other parts of the world through writing, photographs, e-portfolios and podcasts. Their analyses will involve such themes as nutrition, poverty, environment, global trade, sustainability, organic agriculture, slow food vs. fast food, and how food cultures have changed in the last 50 years.

*Coordinated by Dr. Tamar Rothenberg, Department of History, and Dr. Giulia Guarneri, Department of Modern Languages*

#### Thursday, 11/18

##### International Education Week

##### STUDY AND VOLUNTEER ABROAD FAIR • **GA** (OCD) Colston Hall, Room 421/12-2 p.m.

Learn about the programs and scholarships available and meet students who have already participated in similar programs, including Jeffrey Guard, who won a Michael Steuerman Legacy Fund Scholarship to participate in a medical program this summer in Sri Lanka.

*Coordinated by Barbara Schaier-Peleg, National Center for Educational Alliances, and Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English*

#### Tuesday, 11/30

##### UNITED NATIONS PATHWAYS VIDEO CONFERENCE SERIES • **GA** - BY INVITATION ONLY

The second of this semester's Fairleigh Dickinson University United Nations Pathways Video Conference series explores the topic of the "UN and Potential Contribution of Youth to Development in Different Regions of the World." This event is organized by FDU's Office of Global Learning, and BCC students will participate in the College's video conference facility.

*Coordinated by Barbara Schaier-Peleg, National Center for Educational Alliances, and Professor Andrew Rowan, National Center for Educational Alliances and Department of English*

### DECEMBER

#### Wednesday, 12/1

##### SGA "GO GREEN" WORKSHOPS • **SE** (OCD)

Faculty/Staff Lounge, Language Hall/12-2 p.m.

BCC's Student Government Association will educate the student body about how to practice sustainability on campus and in everyday life. This event is sponsored by the Office of Student Life.

*Coordinated by William Murray and Julissa Lora, Student Government Association*

#### Thursday, 12/2

##### GLOBAL FILM SERIES: 4 MONTHS, 3 WEEKS, 2 DAYS • **GW** (OCD)

A FILM BY CRISTIAN MUNGIU (113 MINUTES)  
Schwendler Auditorium, Meister Hall/12-2 p.m.

This film, which won the Palme d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, is a ferocious, unsentimental film about a young woman who helps a friend secure an abortion. Transpiring over the course of a single day, Mungiu's film is poignant and shocking.

*Moderated by Dr. William deJong-Lambert, Department of History. The series is coordinated by Dr. Katherine Culkin, Department of History.*

#### Thursday, 12/2

##### FAMILY LITERACY AND ITS IMPACT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD/CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

• **LE** (OCD)

Colston Hall, 4th Floor/12-2 p.m.

The central premise of this study is to understand the role that the family plays in the development of literacy and its global impact on early childhood/childhood education. Sponsored by the Future Teachers' Club of Bronx Community College, prospective teachers and teachers' assistants in education classes, who will collaboratively work to define such terms and concepts as family literacy, global, and globalization.

*Coordinated by Dr. Joan Wilson, Professor Georgene Osborne, and Professor Diane D'Alessio, Department of Education and Reading*

## SPRING 2011

An exciting program of events is being planned for spring 2011, and the completed calendar will be announced later this fall.

Highlights for next semester include a continuation of the Women's Global Film Series with a showing of *Persepolis* on March 3rd, *For the Next Seven Generations* on April 7th, and *Up the Yangtze* on May 5th. The award-winning film *The Cove* will be shown as an Earth Day presentation on April 22nd, and other Earth Day and Green Festival events will take place on April 14th.

Presentations are being prepared on a wide range of topics, including "The Status of Women in Iran and Other Countries"; "The Ethics of Global Economics"; "Environment, Food Scarcity and Human Rights"; "Pandemics: Vaccines and Global Health"; "Learning Connections: Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood/Childhood Education"; and "Sexism and Ageism in China." Nominations and elections for the Women's Virtual Hall of Fame will take place in March.

The BCC community—students, faculty and staff—are invited to attend these spring 2011 events as well as those being held in the fall. In most instances, there will also be time for questions and answers, and discussions after the formal presentations or screenings. For most of the programs, OCD credit is also available.